

From: russell_ivey@att.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/8/02 11:13am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am an electrical and computer systems engineer who would like to comment on the ruling against Microsoft. I believe it is in the best interest of the consumer and the computer industry if Microsoft be prohibited from retaliating against an OEM if that OEM provides software on their machine which competes against Microsoft, or if the OEM provides a dual boot system.

I should like to mention a specific case as an example. The BeOS, created by former Apple employees among others, represents a substantial leap in OS technology, but has been unsuccessful in the commercial market, largely due to the lack of machines offered with BeOS as a native OS or dual boot alternative. BeOS is currently used in computers which are not personal computers, but commercial systems which allow editing of audio and video, and in many cases is the choice of professionals for multimedia work, choosing to write their own software for BeOS rather than use existing software and Microsoft Windows. BeOS has been bought by Palm, Inc. and dissolved, due to it's lack of market success, which I feel is directly related to the policies of Microsoft which kept BeOS from being offered side by side with Windows on PC's.

Please take into consideration the effect of Microsoft on BeOS in your decision. Thank you for your thoughtful diligence in this case.

Russell Ivey